

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-29 are now present in the application. Claims 1, 19 and 29 have been amended. Claims 1, 19 and 29 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 & 103

Claims 1-8, 17, 19-21, 27 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Misra, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2006/0031357. Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Misra. Claims 11-16, 18, 22-26 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Misra in view of the secondary reference(s). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites a combination of elements including "[a]n electronic mail management system for handling electronic mail in a shared multiple user environment, in which the users' incoming electronic mail are sent and received from external correspondents, said system includes a common mail server with a central storage wherein electronic mail items of the users are stored and may be retrieved, said system comprising: detecting means for monitoring the flow of in- and outbound electronic mails on the mail server for a specified set of users, and intercepting the in- and outbound e-mails; journalising means for creating a notification record of a set of e-mail information data for each of the intercepted electronic mails; an electronic mail manager database (EMM DB) for storing said notification records and the associated electronic mails in a relation database so that all the notification records and all the

associated electronic mails are accessible for all the users in the multiple users environment by a search query; and means for establishing a journal of electronic mails from the notification records in the electronic mail management database by defining a search request query and submitting said search request to a search engine for selecting a user-defined series of information data from the notification records in the electronic mail management database.”

Independent claim 19 recites a combination of steps including “[a] method of journalising electronic mail in a shared multiple user environment, in which the users' incoming electronic mail are sent and received from external correspondents, said system includes a common mail server with a central storage wherein electronic mail items of the users are stored and may be retrieved, said method comprising: monitoring the flow of in- and outbound electronic mails on the mail server to and from the server users, and intercepting at least a selection of the in- and outbound e-mails, creating a notification record of a set of e-mail information data for each intercepted electronic mail, and storing said notification records and the associated electronic mails in an electronic mail manager relation database (EMM DB) so that all the notification records and all the associated electronic mails are accessible for all the users in the multiple users environment by a search query; establishing a user-specific journal of e-mails from the notification records in the electronic mail management database (EMM DB) by defining a search request query and submitting said search request to a search engine for selecting a user-defined series of information data from the notification records in the electronic mail management database.”

Independent claim 29 recites a combination of elements including “[a] computer usable medium having computer-readable program code means providing an e-mail management

system for journalising electronic mail in a shared multiple user environment, in which the users' incoming electronic mail are sent and received from external correspondents, said system includes a common mail server with a central storage wherein electronic mail items of the users are stored and may be retrieved, said computer-readable program code comprising: computer program code means for providing detecting means for monitoring the flow of in- and outbound electronic mails on the mail server to and from the server users, and intercepting at least a selection of the in- and outbound e-mails; computer program code means for providing journalising means for creating a notification record of a set of e-mail information data for each intercepted electronic mail, and storing said notification records and the associated electronic mails in an electronic mail manager relation database (EMM DB) for storing at least said notification record and each electronic mail in a manner accessible for the users in the multiple users environment, so that all the notification records and all the associated electronic mails are accessible for all the users in the multiple users environment by a search query; computer program code means for providing means for establishing a user-specific journal of e-mails from the notification records in the electronic mail management database (EMM DB) by defining a search request query and submitting said search request to a search engine for selecting a user-defined series of information data from the notification records in the electronic mail management database.”

Support for the amendments to claims 1, 19 and 29 can be found in paragraphs [0025], [0026] , [0044] , [0050] , [0051] , [0080] , [0092] , [0094] , [0098] and [0109] of the U.S. Patent Application Publication of the present application. Applicants respectfully submit that the above

combinations of elements and steps as set forth in independent claims 1, 19 and 29 are not disclosed nor suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner for the following reasons.

In particular, although Misra may disclose an e-mail management system having a common mail server with a central storage for storing and retrieving the users' e-mails, Misra simply evolves the traditional mailbox paradigm. More specifically, Misra's replay system performs the functions of re-delivering, replying, forwarding and pre-viewing e-mail message, which are part of a traditional e-mail management system. The "user" defined in paragraphs [0073] of Misra is a typical user of a traditional e-mail management system. However, this typical user in traditional e-mail management system does not have the access to the other users' messages. Instead, in a traditional e-mail management system like Misra, each user's e-mails are strictly private and cannot be accessible to others without additional privileges.

Unlike the traditional e-mail management system like Misra, in the claimed invention, all of the notification records and all of the associated electronic e-mails are accessible to all of the users in the multiple users environment by a search query. This feature is clearly absent from Misra because each user's e-mails are strictly private and cannot be accessible to others. Therefore, Misra fails to teach "all the notification records and all the associated electronic mails are accessible for all the users in the multiple users environment by a search query" as recited in claims 1, 19 and 29.

With regard to the Examiner's reliance on the secondary references, these references have only been relied on for their teachings related to some dependent claims. These references also fail to disclose the above combinations of elements and steps as set forth in independent claims 1, 19 and 29. Accordingly, these references fail to cure the deficiencies of Misra.

Accordingly, none of the references utilized by the Examiner individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of independent claims 1, 19 and 29 or their dependent claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 19 and 29 and their dependent claims clearly define over the teachings of the references relied on by the Examiner.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Cheng-Kang (Greg) Hsu, Registration No. 61,007 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Application No. 10/586,136
Amendment dated December 22, 2008
Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2008

Docket No.: 2836-0160PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 22, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Paul C. Lewis

Registration No.: 43,368

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant

